

**Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee
Minutes of Monday, January 30, 2006**

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, January 30, 2006, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Sandy Kane, Vice Chair
Terry Elvers
Mary Ann Glennon
Gabe Kelemen
Brian Rolston
Town Council Member Susan Horne
Planning Commissioner Member Brett Burk

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Sean Baroody
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney

Members of Public

Osby Ball
Jim Bohnaker
Mary Bohnaker
Jim Casey
Lisa Hawthorne
Jeff McCarthy
Dennis Nolan
Ken Reid

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Susan Horne, the minutes for the December 19, 2005 meeting were approved, with Brett Burk and Terry Elvers abstaining.

2. *Public Comment:* (i) Jim and Mary Bohnaker, residents at 507 Edwards Ferry Road N.E., related observations confirming prior complaints of speeding and high traffic volumes on Edwards Ferry Road. Problems peculiar to their location include the absence of sidewalks on the south side of the road and their need to perform yard maintenance from inside the travel lane. *[Committee discussion later in the meeting asked staff to advise Mr. and Mrs. Bohnaker that the SRTC FY '07 budget request will authorize construction of the Edwards Ferry Road/Plaza Street "pinchpoint" improvements that, like the South King Street project recommended by the Committee, will combine a landscaped island with gateway signage to signify transition into a residential area. After Brett Burk accessed the updated Comprehensive Plan, which suggested that sidewalk improvements are recommended for the south side of Edwards Ferry Road in the 500 block, the Committee asked Nick Colonna to confirm that recommendation and where it may stand on the Town CIP.]* (ii) Jim Casey and Dennis Nolan presented concerns of residents along Tennessee Drive N.E. Initially, their complaints arose from traffic using the road as a cut-through from Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. to completed sections of Battlefield Parkway south of Balls Bluff Elementary School. Since opening of the earlier incomplete stretch of Battlefield Parkway, the Tennessee Drive residents have confirmed through follow-up traffic studies completed by the Town that traffic volumes expected to stay on Battlefield Parkway to make a left turn onto Hutchison Place appear to be taking advantage of the traffic signal at Battlefield Parkway and Tennessee Drive and continuing through portions of Tennessee Drive designated as a local collector rather than through collector. The residents acknowledge that Town speed studies don't show a speeding problem. They also note that the Town's follow-up studies, while continuing to show average speeds below 31 mph, demonstrate that the 85th percentile speed is reaching 34 mph. *[The Committee concurred with the staff recommendation that*

new studies be undertaken for the March meeting.]

3. *VRTA/Safe-T-Ride ridership:* Calvin Grow presented the December numbers for Safe-T-Ride and the Trolley. Liz Whiting and Brian Rolston noted prior Committee requests for cumulative tracking of these figures. Calvin Grow agreed that the figures could be fed into a database or spreadsheet that would allow tracking changes over time. Sandy Kane also reported that the VRTA had agreed to look into the possibility of re-routing its fixed-route location in the southeast quadrant to account for the large apartment complex coming on-line there.

4. *Traffic Calming FY '07 Budget Update:* Liz Whiting reported that the Committee's adoption of Brian Rolston's suggestion that available funds be re-deployed to the South King Street landscaped island feature had resulted in the FY '07 budget request attached to the minutes and that she had recommended adding a line-item for a northwest quadrant project improving pedestrian access to Ida Lee Park based on new member Mary Ann Glennon's comments at the December meeting. Calvin Grow walked the Committee through the final figures attached to the FY '07 request, confirming the transfer of lower-cost items from the FY '06 budget to make room for the South King Street recommendation and including a second phase for South King Street to allow for landscaping improvements. Calvin Grow confirmed that provision of water to the South King Street project was not included in the proposal, which placed the island's projected landscaping on the same basis as the islands south of Catoctin Circle, as well as the flower baskets in the historic district.

5. *Smart trailer report:* Mark McCartney reported that during December the Smart Trailer had been used for public information programming rather than residential educational purposes.

6. *Update on South King Street median project:* Liz Whiting's letter to the Mayor and Town Council was attached to the minutes. Staff will alert Liz Whiting regarding the opportunity to address the Town Council regarding this proposal. (February 28, 2006 meeting.)

7. *Speed studies:* Staff presented the results of follow-up speed studies for North King Street (enhanced penalty), Marshall Drive at Autumn Willow Way and Lawson Road at Beauregard Drive (raised crosswalks). Although all studies showed reduced average speeds (3, 2 and 4 mph, respectively) initially following installation, a further follow-up on North King Street showed an upward creep of 1 mph. Speed studies for Bradfield Drive at Country Club Drive showed an average speed of 32 mph, with the 85% percentile at 38.91.

8. *Committee concerns:* (i) Sandy Kane inquired about the follow-up to her report that the pedestrian buttons installed at the intersection of King and Market Streets did not appear to trigger the count-down function. Sean Baroody reported that he had confirmed the corrections have been made. (ii) Gabe Kelemen asked about the status of the Cornwall Campus office project. Nick Colonna reported that under new ordinance

amendments, by-right projects such as this are no longer Planning Commission items and, instead, are handled as staff approvals. He indicated that Committee and citizen concerns could be forwarded to planning staff for consideration. Liz Whiting indicated that she had forwarded a memorandum raising ordinance requirement concerns she had noted during her four months as acting Town Attorney and recalled seeing a memorandum from the new Town Attorney raising ordinance issues. The Committee agreed that Liz Whiting would forward materials to Susan Horne for follow-up inquiries. (iii) Calvin Grow inquired what the Committee wanted brought to them regarding the Edwards Landing requests. (See item 2(ii)). (iv) Liz Whiting asked about signage along the southbound approach to town on Route 15 and whether VDOT ever responded to inquiries that might substitute "Historic District" for "Business 15", the traditional distinction from "Bypass." The Committee agreed that everyone should try to drive this approach as well as all the locations prompting citizen complaints.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.